

Appl. No. : 10/670,936
Filed : September 25, 2003

REMARKS

With this amendment, Claims 6-8 and 23-29 are pending in the present application. Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 7, added Claims 23-29, and canceled Claims 1-5 and 9-22 without prejudice or disclaimer preserving the right to file a continuation application based on the canceled claims. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the above-identified application are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

U.S. Patent No. 4,844,473 to Landsberg

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 4, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,844,473 to Landsberg. Applicant has canceled those claims without prejudice or disclaimer; accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of those claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,346,899 to Nuebling

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,346,899 to Nuebling. Applicant has canceled those claims without prejudice or disclaimer; accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of those claims.

U.S. Patent No. 3,582,080 to Schick

The Examiner rejects Claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,582,080 to Schick. Applicant has canceled those claims without prejudice or disclaimer; accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of those claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

U.S. Patent No. 4,844,473 to Landsberg

The Examiner rejects Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,844,473 to Landsberg. Applicant has canceled that claim without prejudice or disclaimer; accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of that claim.

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U.S. Patent No. 4,346,899 to Nuebling in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,903,969 to Williams

The Examiner rejects Claims 12-15, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,346,899 to Nuebling in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,903,969 to Williams. Applicant has canceled those claims without prejudice or disclaimer; accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of those claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 6-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that Claims 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 7. Claim 6 has been amended and rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims; namely, Claims 1, 4, and 5. Claim 7 has been amended and rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims; namely, Claims 1 and 4. With respect to Claim 8, Applicant submits that an amendment of that claim is not necessary because Claim 8 depends on Claim 7. As a result of the amendment to Claim 7, Claim 8 should now depend on an allowable claim. Therefore, based on the amendments to Claims 6 and 7, Claims 6-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to those claims.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 23-29. Applicant submits that none of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests the novel combination of features recited in those new claims. In addition, Claims 23-25 are dependent on Claim 6 and thus, each of those claims incorporates the limitations of amended Claim 6, which, as discussed above, are allowable over the cited references. Claims 26-29 are dependent on Claim 7 and thus, each of those claims incorporate the limitations of amended Claim 7, which as discussed above, are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 23-29 are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

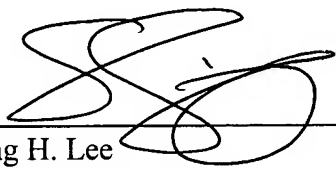
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain or require further clarification the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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